

FROM THE GROUND UP

A NEWS LETTER FOR COMMON GROUND MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

JANUARY 2016

STEERING COMMITTEE

President –Nick Latimer; Vice-President/SAA – Tim Braith; Secretary/Treasurer – Tracy Patterson ; Marketing Coordinator – Morgan Zandonella; Members – Bill Mc Murran – Diane Wilkinson

WHAT'S HAPPENING

It's a new year – **HAPPY NEW YEAR-** Some of the upcoming event that are schduled: training class - 27 February, 10 A/M. at the garden more information will be coming. We have two new members of the Steering Committee they are Bill McMurran and Diane Wilkinson. Both are very knowledgeable Master Gardeners.

LEARN MORE AND MEET NEW FRIENDS

The Master Gardeners meeting resulted in a combining of resources for our garden. We have two new members(don't stop reading if you have heard this before) and they will be very involved in the growth, development and direction of Common Ground. We want your input even more, we are entering a new era in the development of our garden.

THOUGHTS

The short days, cold and wet weather it's hard to think about seed planting and propagation. But this is the right time to look at seed catalogues or go to Orange County Farm Supply on Chapman(west of Main in Orange) and decide what to do in the coming spring. We have available plots and will soon have identifiers of which ones they are. If you have any friends that will be interested in growing their own organic vegetables have them get a plot, can't beat the price. Community gardens is a great way to improve your contacts in the neighborhood and get to know other gardeners.

COMPOST AND SOIL

Compost is a great addition to your plot any time. Loam, what is loam? It is a great growing medium but usually used in the same sentence as top soil but there is a big difference. Loam has to contain organic matter(clippings, decaying root fibers, worm castings, etc.) Loam should be a ratio of: 40% sand;40% silt(organic); and 20% clay. Let it lie fallow for a couple of weeks and you have a great seed bed. Remember to rotate your crops, don't plant the same thing in the same location.

WHAT DO WE GROW NOW?

Roses need pruning and planting. If your not sure what to do, let us know and we'll put on a class on roses. Get your plots ready, add comost, manure etc. good soil is so important. If you don't know what to do, ask us, the Steering Committee will have or get the answer.

WE NEED HELP MOVING THE PILES OF MULCH ! DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO CAN HELP? IF YOU WANT SOME FOR YOUR HOME OR NEIGHBORS GARDEN, LOAD UP.

REMEMBER THAT THIS IS YOUR GARDEN AND WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU WANT AND NEED. ANY STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER WILL LISTEN TO YOU AND PASS ON ANY REQUESTS OR COMMENTS.

Editor: Nick Latimer
latimers@earthlink.net